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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/003,079	11/02/2001	Chaitanya Kanojia	2657.2008-001	5364

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EXAMINER

SALCE, JASON P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/003,079

Applicant(s)

KANOJIA ET AL.

Examiner

Jason P. Salce

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/13/2002.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/13/2002 was filed after the filing date of the instant application on 11/02/2001. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilkins (U.S. Patent No. 5,446,919) in view of Schulman (U.S. Patent No. 5,600,366).

Referring to claim 1, Wilkins discloses in a cable television network system that connects STBs to receive broadcast program content from cable network head end distribution points (see Figure 1A-1B and Column 8, Lines 42-67 for transmitting the program content over the distribution network and Column 10, Lines 16-18 for the STB receiving the program content), a method for delivery of a promotional content stream (see Figure 4 and Column 12, Lines 27-40).

Wilkins also discloses cueing a promotional content stream at a VOD server (see Column 9, Lines 50-55 and VTR 41 and 42) to be played on a VOD channel for a

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particular STB (see Column 9, Lines 55-65 for modulating the promotional content onto the proper RF channel and transmitting the promotional content to the viewer's home, which contains STB 100 in Figure 2), the VOD server located at a cable network headend (see central processor 32 located at the cable television headend in Figure 1B).

Wilkins also discloses sending a first trigger to the particular STB indicating the VOD channel number (see Column 11, Lines 27-38 for transmitting a trigger which indicates channels that can be tuned to based on the user's demographic group (stored in STB 100 in Figure 2)), but which does not cause the STB to yet switch to the VOD channel (see Column 11, Lines 27-28 for the trigger being transmitted prior to the commercial starting, therefore the first trigger does not switch to the VOD channel, but only provides the information to make the determination to switch to the specified VOD channel).

Wilkins also discloses sensing a tag signal in a broadcast channel being watched at the STB, the tag signal indicating an upcoming start of a commercial segment (see Column 12, Lines 10-11 where at the time of broadcast a tag is transmitted, which indicates the start of a commercial (also note Column 12, Lines 27-40 for implementing the tag system in the current advertisement switching system)) and sending a second trigger to cause the STB to switch to the VOD channel indicated by the first trigger (see Column 12, Lines 11-16 for the set top box comparing the tag to the stored profile command data in order to make a determination and trigger the set top box to switch to an alternate commercial).

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Wilkins also discloses beginning playback of the promotional content stream (see Column 12, Lines 45-59).

Wilkins is silent as to the tag signal being a commercial cue tone, which is well known in the art.

Schulman discloses the use of commercial cue tones to detect the start of a video segment and display alternative commercials to the viewer (see Column 7, Lines 23-41).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the tags, as taught by Wilkins, using the commercial cue tones, as taught by Schulman, for the purpose of providing a system where switching occurs predictably at the end of packets and frames so that undesired error states are not encountered (see Column 5, Lines 11-13 of Schulman).

Claim 2 corresponds to claim 1, where Wilkins also discloses that the STB stores a channel number being watched prior to playback of the promotional content stream, and returns to the stored channel number once the promotional content stream ends (see Column 13, Lines 66-67 and Column 14, Lines 1-2 for storing a channel to tune to when a commercial is to be viewed and a channel to return to after the commercial has been viewed).

Claim 3 corresponds to claim 1, where Schulman further discloses that pixilation that may occur during channel switchover to the VOD channel is blanked at the STB (see Column 7, Lines 52-64).

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3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilkins (U.S. Patent No. 5,446,919) in view of Schulman (U.S. Patent No. 5,600,366) in further view of Tsuria (U.S. Patent No. 5,786,845).

Referring to claim 4, Wilkins and Schulman disclose all of the limitations in claim 1, but fail to teach that channel information is displayed during switchover to the VOD channel.

Tsuria discloses displaying channel information (an advertisement for the channel) during a switchover to the television channel (see Column 3, Line 60 through Column 4, Line 6). Note that Wilkins and Schulman both disclose a VOD channel (see rejections above), and note that a VOD channel is part of a CATV system, taught by Tsuria.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the television switchover system, as taught by Wilkins and Schulman, using the channel information display system during a channel change, as taught by Tsuria, for the purpose of providing additional services which are especially applicable for use at zapping times (see Column 1, Lines 32-33 of Tsuria), and providing advertising during lag time between channel changes so that the viewer is not discouraged from using the system.

Conclusion

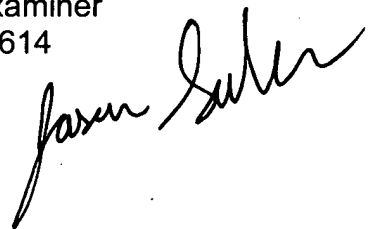
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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Salce whose telephone number is (571) 272-7301. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason P Salce
Patent Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Salce", written in a cursive style.

November 29, 2005